

Message Text

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ORIGIN AID-20

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 CU-04 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

IGA-02 EUR-25 (ISO) R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

INFO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 114660

E.O.11652:GDS

TAGS: EAID, SCUL, CB, GE, GW, AU, CZ, TH

SUBJECT: KEUKY LIM MAY 2 VISIT: KHMER STUDENTS IN EAST
EUROPE

REF: STATE 93062 (NOTAL)

BANGKOK FOR RED

1. DURING MAY 2 VISIT TO DEPARTMENT OF KHMER FON MIN
KEUKY LIM, LATTER RAISED WITH CU AND AID OFFICIALS PROBLEM
OF A NUMBER OF KHMER STUDENTS NOW ATTENDING UNIVERSITIES IN
EAST GERMANY AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA. ACCORDING TO KEUKY LIM,
LATTER TWO GOVERNMENTS WILL ALLOW KHMER STUDENTS TO REMAIN
THERE ONLY IF REGISTERED UNDER AUSPICES OF SIHANOUK REGIME,
ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION (GRUNK) RATHER THAN
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UNDER LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT OF THE KHMER REPUBLIC (GKR).

FONMIN SAID THAT APPROXIMATELY 25 STUDENTS HAD DECIDED TO CONTINUE THEIR STUDIES UNDER COMMUNIST MANTLE BUT THAT MAJORITY OF STUDENTS WHO STILL HAD NOT RECEIVED THEIR DEGREES WANTED TO LEAVE. GKR VERY MUCH WANTS TO GIVE THESE STUDENTS AN ALTERNATIVE TO STUDY ELSEWHERE.

2. NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO WANT TO COMPLETE THEIR STUDIES ELSEWHERE IS FIFTY-SIX, 52 IN EAST GERMANY AND FOUR IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. FONMIN SAYS THAT SCHOLARSHIPS HAVE BEEN ARRANGED IN WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES FOR SEVENTEEN OF THESE STUDENTS POSSESSING SOME PROFINIENCY IN GERMAN (TEN IN WEST GERMANY, FOUR IN SWITZERLAND, AND THREE IN AUSTRIA). FONMIM ASKED WHETHER USG COULD ASSIST IN PROVIDING SCHOLARSHIPS FOR REMAINING 39 PLUS ONE OTHER KHMER STUDENT LEADER NOW IN PHNOM PENH WHOM MARSHALL LON NOL WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE U.S. TRAINING.

3. EIGHTEEN OF 39 ARE IN LIBERAL ARTS, PERFORMING ARTS, MUSIC, ETC., WHILE REMAINING 21 ARE IN ENGINEERING, BASIC SCIENCE, CHEMISTRY, CERAMICS, ARCHITECTURE, THERMODYNAMICS, AND OTHER TECHNICAL FIELDS (FOUR IN DOCTORAL PROGRAMS AND THE REST UNDERGRADUATES). ACCORDING TO UM SIM, KHMER AMBASSADOR TO U.S., WHO RECENTLY QUERIED KHMER REPRESENTATIVE IN GENEVA STUDENTS POSSESS VERY LITTLE IF ANY KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH. ON AN AVERAGE, STUDENTS HAVE TWO OR THREE YEARS OF WORK REMAINING BEFORE THEY CAN RECEIVE DEGREE.

4. CU INFORMED KEUKY LIM THAT IT HAD NO UNPROGRAMMED FUNDS THAT COULD BE USED FOR SCHOLARSHIPS IN THE UPCOMING ACADEMIC YEAR. DEPARTMENT OFFERED TO INQUIRE AS TO WHETHER WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES MIGHT BE ABLE TO EXPAND THEIR SCHOLARSHIP OFFERS (PARA. 2 ABOVE). AID SUBSEQUENTLY MENTIONED TWO POSSIBILITIES TO AMBASSADOR UM SIM RE STUDENTS IN TECHNICAL FIELDS (AID CANNOT OFFER ANY TRAINING IN LIBERAL AND PERFORMING ARTS). ONE WAS POSSIBLE EXPANSION OF AID-FINANCED ASIA FOUNDATION CONTRACT TO TRAIN PARTICIPANTS HERE (TEN STUDENTS ARE NOW SCHEDULED TO ENTER U.S. UNIVERSITY UNDER CURRENT CONTRACT). WE HAVE EXPLORED MATTER ALREADY WITH ASIA FOUNDATION, WHICH IS RELUCTANT CONFIDENTIAL

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BECAUSE OF STUDENTS' VERY LIMITED ENGLISH-LANGUAGE CAPABILITY, OUR LACK OF KNOWLEDGE OF STUDENT'S CAPABILITIES AND ACADEMIC PROGRESS, AND FOUNDATION'S NORMAL PROCEDURE OF WORKING ONLY WITH GRADUATE STUDENTS. ASIA FOUNDATION'S WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE SAID HIS ORGANIZATION WAS WILLING TO CONSIDER MATTER FURTHER AND MIGHT BE ABLE TO WORK OUT AID-FINANCED PROGRAM FOR FOUR GRADUATE STUDENTS, ALL SEEKING DOCTORATES IN ENGINEERING. FOUNDATION REPRESENTA-

TIVE SUGGESTED THAT ISRAEL MIGHT BE WILLING TO TRAIN SOME OF PERFORMING ART STUDENTS BECAUSE OF ISRAELI CAPABILITIES IN MUSIC AND GERMAN.

5. SECOND POSSIBILITY RAISED BY AID IS PROVIDING SCHOLARSHIPS TO AT LEAST A PORTION OF TECHNICAL STUDENTS AT ONE OR MORE OF REGIONAL SOUTHEAST ASIAN INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING REGIONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING CENTER IN SINGAPORE.

6. ACTION REQUESTED FOR BONN, VIENNA, BERN: REQUEST YOU ASK HOST COUNTRIES IF ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS CAN BE PROVIDED TO KHMER STUDENTS IN QUESTION WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THEIR GENEROUS OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE ALREADY MADE (ACCORDING TO GKR REPORTS).

7. FOR RED BANGKOK: BELIEVE RELC, AIT AND POSSIBLY OTHER REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS MIGHT BE ABLE OFFER ASSISTANCE. IF FUNDS PROVIDED, COULD RELC SET UP SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR TRAINING STUDENTS IN ENGLISH, PREPARATORY TO ADMISSIONS TO AIT, OTHER INSTITUTIONS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA OR IN US? WOULD AIT BE WILLING TO PROVIDE TRAINING TO QUALIFIED KHMER ENGINEERING STUDENTS? IF SOME OF THE STUDENTS WERE IN APPROPRIATE FIELDS BUT FELL BELOW NORMAL AIT STANDARDS, WOULD AIT BE ABLE PROVIDE SPECIAL COURSES? IT SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD BY INSTITUTIONS YOU MAY CONTACT THAT OUR INFORMATION ON THE FIELDS, QUALIFICATIONS, AND LANGUAGE ABILITY OF THESE STUDENTS IS VERY INCOMPLETE AND THAT NO FUNDS FOR SPECIAL PROGRAMS HAVE YET BEEN EARMARKED. HOWEVER, WE WOULD APPRECIATE RED'S ADVICE AND SUGGESTIONS SOONEST.

8. FOR PHNOM PENH: WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS ON ABOVE AND ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION YOU CAN SUPPLY ON THESE STUDENTS. KISSINGER
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